

Appl. No. 09/741,666

Page 5 of 6

Amendment/Response

Reply to Office action of 12 March 2003

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application.

Applicant(s) thank(s) the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

The claims are amended for non-statutory reasons, to place them in standard U.S. patent practice format, correct obvious typographical errors, etc. New claim 12 is added to duplicate the language appended to claim 2 that was obviously intended to be a separate claim, but was apparently accidentally written without its own claim number. No new matter is added.

The Office action restricts the invention to one of the following groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-8, drawn to a device or apparatus; and
- II. Claims 9-11, drawn to a method.

In response, applicant(s) provisionally elect(s), with traverse, to prosecute the species of claims 1-8 along with newly added claim 12 drawn to the same species.

Applicants' traversal is based at least on the fact that the device and the method for making it are so closely related that searching both the device and the method would not impose an undue burden on the Examiner.

Applicant(s) agree(s) to withdraw the nonelected claim(s) without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter thereof in the event the examiner maintains the restriction requirement. Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to prosecute the subject matter of the canceled claim(s) in a divisional or other continuing application.


Examination of the application on its merits is now respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may

Appl. No. 09/741,666
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Page 6 of 6

best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview,
the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the
undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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